

GENERAL SCIENCE

Wildlife Chief Dismissed

Scientists protest ouster of Albert M. Day, with 35 years of service, as bureau chief. Administration states reason for change is to put men of their own choice in policy positions.

► THE NATION'S scientists, already boiling mad following the battery additive incident in which Dr. A. V. Astin, head of the Bureau of Standards, was summarily fired, then reinstated temporarily, turned red hot at the dismissal of Albert M. Day, head of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Mr. Day, with nearly 35 years of service as a government scientist to his credit, lost his job for strictly political reasons. Secretary of Interior Douglas McKay, Mr. Day's boss, "wants to put men of his own choice through all the top policy-making positions in the department," a spokesman explained.

After several tension-filled days, Secretary McKay finally announced that Day could stay on as an assistant director.

Secretary McKay's choice for chief is John L. Farley of Seattle, Wash., a public relations man with the Crown Zellerbach Corporation, a huge paper-manufacturing concern.

The man who is to head one of the government's largest biological research agencies has a B.S. degree in electrical engineering. After army service in the first World War, Mr. Farley worked for nearly six years with the Pacific Gas and Electric Company in California as a sales engineer and public relations officer.

From 1929 to 1935 he was executive officer of the California Division of Fish and Game. Isadore Zellerbach, of the Crown Zellerbach Corporation, was president of the division through 1931, and was a commissioner at least through 1935.

According to California Fish and Game bulletins issued during these years, these jobs were filled by appointment by the governor.

Mr. Farley's job with Crown Zellerbach was interrupted by the second World War, during which time he served in the artillery, becoming a colonel. He was discharged from active duty in 1945, and resumed his old job in "community relations work" with the paper-manufacturing concern.

A high-ranking scientist in the Fish and Wildlife Service told SCIENCE SERVICE that morale in the service was at a low ebb. "We all admire Mr. Day," he said, "as a scientist and as a man. It is especially hard on us to see him replaced by a man who doesn't have the scientific background and training so necessary in our work."

Fred M. Packard, executive secretary of the National Parks Association, said while Secretary McKay certainly has the right to reorganize his department, he should have made the appointment from within the

Fish and Wildlife ranks, or at least selected a scientist who understands the problems and philosophy of the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Within the Fish and Wildlife Service, the men who have made conservation and wildlife research their life work feel the bite of insecurity. "We must have government jobs," one of them explained, "either Federal or state, because they are about the only agencies that can make use of our specialized training."

"But if politics enters the service, and non-scientists get the jobs, well, we must feel pretty shaky."

Science News Letter, May 2, 1953

GENERAL SCIENCE

32 Groups Protest Firing of Day to Ike

► PRESIDENT EISENHOWER was scheduled to hear the complaints of 32 conservation and scientific groups over the entrance of politics into the hiring and firing of personnel in the government's conservation agencies at a meeting with the Emergency Committee on Natural Resources delegation April 28.

C. R. Gutermuth, secretary of the committee of representatives from the 32 organizations, told SCIENCE SERVICE the political firing of Albert M. Day as head of the Fish and Wildlife Service, would rank high among the matters discussed.

A man with nearly 35 years of service as a government scientist, Mr. Day was fired as head of the service by Secretary of Interior McKay, to be replaced by John L. Farley of Seattle, a public relations officer with a large paper manufacturing business.

In a letter dated Jan. 27, sent to the President, the Emergency Committee on Natural Resources asked the President to keep the Fish and Wildlife Service and similar agencies free from politics.

"We believe that such agencies . . . should be administered and operated by professionally trained individuals selected under the Civil Service System," the letter said, "and not subject to replacement for political reasons." Mr. Day was under Civil Service. In another letter, sent to Secretary of Interior McKay dated Feb. 19, the Committee commended the wildlife protection policies of the bureau under Mr. Day.

"A major responsibility of the Secretary of Interior," the letter said, "is the maintenance of the migratory waterfowl resource to which this country is pledged by

treaties with both Canada and Mexico. There are many pressures for special favors by various groups who seek to exploit for their own personal enjoyment or profit this continental resource.

"We believe that the Fish and Wildlife Service has done a good job in guarding this resource, and in placing the interests of the resource above that of any group which seeks its exploitation."

Mr. Day has accused pressure groups against his wildlife protection policies as being instrumental in his dismissal.

Member organizations of the Emergency Committee on Natural Resources are: American Fisheries Society, American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, A.F.L., American Geographical Society, American Nature Association, American Planning and Civic Association, American Society of Zoologists, Better Fishing, Inc., Congress of Industrial Organizations, Conservation Foundation, Cooperative League of the U.S.A., International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners, Grassland Research Foundation, Izaak Walton League of America, National Association of Soil Conservation Districts, National Audubon Society, National Farms Union, National Parks Association, National Wildlife Federation, New York Zoological Society, North American Wildlife Foundation, Outdoor Writers Association of America, Public Affairs Institute, Pulp Sulphite and Paper Mill Workers, A.F.L., Sierra Club, Society of American Foresters, Soil Conservation Society of America, Sport Fishing Institute, The Mountaineers, Wilderness Society, Wild Flower Preservation Society, Wildlife Management Institute and Wildlife Society.

Science News Letter, May 2, 1953

TECHNOLOGY

Twisting Cotton Fibers Help Spot Fake Fabric

► THE TWISTING and curling of slightly damp cotton fibers as they dry, such as visible with a good magnifying glass in a drying shirt or blouse, helped spot a fake Tiraz fabric, Rene Batigne and Miss Louisa Bellinger told the American Philosophical Society meeting in Philadelphia.

This constant shifting of drying cotton fibers enabled Mr. Batigne and Miss Bellinger to spot a Dated Tiraz Fabric as a fake, made in Asia in 941 or 942 A.D., not in Egypt. Tiraz fabrics record historical texts in embroidery. But to judge if the text is correct, historians must know that the Dated Tiraz is genuine.

By dampening the fibers slightly, they can tell. Drying cotton fibers have the liveliest "dance," while linen curls and twists much less, although both cotton and linen make a fabric that looks the same. Since cotton is the prevalent fiber in Asia, while linen prevails in Egypt, the fake fabric was spotted.

Science News Letter, May 2, 1953